

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A data storage medium, comprising:

primary data, logically formatted into a first block, the first block including first error correction codes for the primary data; and
a second block, the second block including second error correction codes for the primary data in the first block.

5

2. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

the second block including third error correction codes for the second error correction codes.

3. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

the first block including an indication that associates the second block with the first block.

4. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

a data structure identifying physical locations of data; and
an indication in the data structure that associates the second block with the first block.

5. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

a data area, the data area having a beginning and an end, the first block within the data area, and the second block near the end of the data area.

6. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

- a plurality of blocks containing primary data;
- a plurality of blocks containing error correction codes for the primary data;
- and
- the blocks containing error correction codes distributed among the blocks containing primary data.

7. The data storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:

- the first error correction codes and the second error correction codes provide independent correction of the primary data.

8. A method, comprising:

- transferring primary data in a first block;
- transferring, in the first block, first error correction codes for the primary data in the first block;
- transferring, in a second block, second error correction codes for the primary data in the first block.

9. A method, comprising:

- writing primary data in a first block;
- writing, in the first block, first error correction codes for the primary data in the first block;
- writing, in a second block, second error correction codes for the primary data in the first block.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

- writing an indication associating the second block with the first block.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
writing the second block before writing the indication.
12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
clearing the indication when the second block is overwritten.
13. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
writing, before the second block is written, an indication that the second block will be written; and
clearing, the indication, after the second block is written.
14. A method, comprising:
reading primary data in a first ECC block;
applying error correction data, from a second ECC block, to the primary data.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
applying error correction data, from the first ECC block, to the primary data; and
applying the error correction data from the second ECC block, to the primary data, when the error correction data from the first ECC block fails to correct an error.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
erasing uncorrectable data in the first ECC block before applying the error correction data from the second ECC block.

17. A system, comprising:

means for communicating primary data formatted into in a first block;

means for communicating, in the first block, first error correction codes for the primary data;

5 means for communicating, in a second block, second error correction codes for the primary data in the first block.

18. A system, comprising:

a processor, the processor programmed to perform the following method:

transferring primary data in a first block;

5 transferring, in the first block, first error correction codes for the primary data in the first block;

transferring, in a second block, second error correction codes for the primary data in the first block.